

# LITERATURE AND LIFE



# LITERATURE AND LIFE

*Studies*

By W. D. HOWELLS

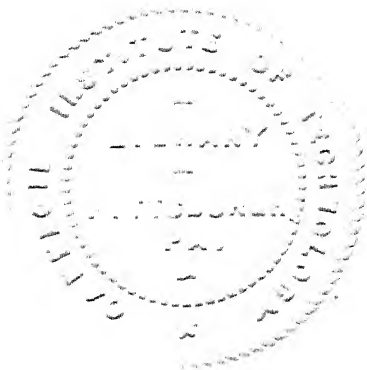
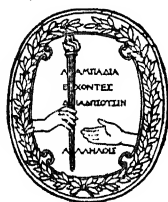
AUTHOR OF

"LITERARY FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCE"

"HEROINES OF FICTION"

"MY LITERARY PASSIONS" ETC.

*ILLUSTRATED*

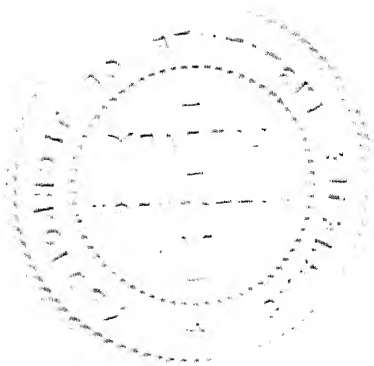


HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS

NEW YORK AND LONDON

1902

814-  
H15



Copyright, 1902, by HARPER & BROTHERS.

*All rights reserved.*

Published October, 1902.

## A WORD OF EXPLANATION

PERHAPS the reader may not feel in these papers that inner solidarity which the writer is conscious of; and it is in this doubt that the writer wishes to offer a word of explanation. He owns, as he must, that they have every appearance of a group of desultory sketches and essays, without palpable relation to one another, or superficial allegiance to any central motive. Yet he ventures to hope that the reader who makes his way through them will be aware, in the retrospect, of something like this relation and this allegiance.

For my own part, if I am to identify myself with the writer who is here on his defence, I have never been able to see much difference between what seemed to me Literature and what seemed to me Life. If I did not find life in what professed to be literature, I disabled its profession, and possibly from this habit, now inveterate with me, I am never quite sure of life unless I find literature in it. Unless the thing seen reveals to me an intrinsic poetry, and puts on phrases that clothe it pleasingly to the imagination, I do not much care for it; but if it will do this, I do not mind how poor or common or squalid it shows at first glance: it challenges my curiosity and keeps my sympathy. Instantly I love it and wish to share my pleasure in it with some one else, or as many ones else as I can get to look or listen. If the thing is something read, rather than seen, I am not anxious about the matter: if it

## A WORD OF EXPLANATION

is like life, I know that it is poetry, and take it to my heart. There can be no offence in it for which its truth will not make me amends.

Out of this way of thinking and feeling about these two great things, about Literature and Life, there may have arisen a confusion as to which is which. But I do not wish to part them, and in their union I have found, since I learned my letters, a joy in them both which I hope will last till I forget my letters.

"So was it when my life began;  
So is it, now I am a man;  
So be it when I shall grow old."

It is the rainbow in the sky for me; and I have seldom seen a sky without some bit of rainbow in it. Sometimes I can make others see it, sometimes not; but I always like to try, and if I fail I harbor no worse thought of them than that they have not had their eyes examined and fitted with glasses which would at least have helped their vision.

W. D. H.

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE MAN OF LETTERS AS A MAN OF BUSINESS . . .	I
WORRIES OF A WINTER WALK . . . . .	36
CONFESSIONS OF A SUMMER COLONIST . . . . .	45
THE EDITOR'S RELATIONS WITH THE YOUNG CON- TRIBUTOR . . . . .	63
SUMMER ISLES OF EDEN . . . . .	78
WILD FLOWERS OF THE ASPHALT . . . . .	89
LAST DAYS IN A DUTCH HOTEL . . . . .	95
SOME ANOMALIES OF THE SHORT STORY . . . .	110
A CIRCUS IN THE SUBURBS . . . . .	125
A SHE HAMLET . . . . .	132
SPANISH PRISONERS OF WAR . . . . .	141
THE MIDNIGHT PLATOON . . . . .	154
THE BEACH AT ROCKAWAY . . . . .	161
AMERICAN LITERARY CENTRES . . . . .	173
SAWDUST IN THE ARENA . . . . .	187
AT A DIME MUSEUM . . . . .	193
AMERICAN LITERATURE IN EXILE . . . . .	202
THE HORSE SHOW . . . . .	206
THE PROBLEM OF THE SUMMER . . . . .	216
ÆSTHETIC NEW YORK FIFTY-ODD YEARS AGO . .	222
FROM NEW YORK INTO NEW ENGLAND . . . . .	228

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE STANDARD HOUSEHOLD-EFFECT COMPANY . . .	240
STACCATO NOTES OF A VANISHED SUMMER . . . .	253
THE ART OF THE ADSMITH . . . . .	265
THE PSYCHOLOGY OF PLAGIARISM . . . . .	273
PURITANISM IN AMERICAN FICTION . . . . .	278
THE WHAT AND THE HOW IN ART . . . . .	284
POLITICS OF AMERICAN AUTHORS . . . . .	290
STORAGE . . . . .	298
"FLOATING DOWN THE RIVER ON THE O-HI-O". . .	309



## ILLUSTRATIONS

" ON THE DOWN EAST COAST " . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>
" IT PROFESSED TO BE SUNNY, AND THERE WAS REALLY SOME SORT OF HARD GLIT- TER IN THE AIR " . . . . .	<i>Facing p.</i> 38
" THE COTTAGES . . . ARE DROPPED AS NEAR THE OCEAN AS MAY BE " . . .	" " 50
" IN WHATEVER SORT OUR COLONISTS AMUSE THEMSELVES, IT IS WITH THE LEAST POS- SIBLE CEREMONY " . . . . .	" " 58
" IN THE PRETTY PUBLIC GARDEN " . . .	" " 80
THE TORTOISE AND HIS FRIENDS. . . .	" " 80
PADRE GIACOMO ISSAVERDENS . . . . .	" " 84
" . . . GROTESQUE WITH WIND-WORN AND WAVE-WORN ROCKS " . . . . .	" " 86
A BERMUDA HOUSE . . . . .	" " 86
" . . . SUCH SWAMPY EXPANSES AS THE CONVERGING SURFACE ROADS FORM AT DEAD MAN'S CURVE " . . . . .	" " 90
" I CANNOT PROMISE THE VISITOR TO THE ROOF GARDEN THAT HE WILL FIND GOLD- EN-ROD THERE EVERY NIGHT " . . .	" " 94
ON THE DUNES AT SCHEVENINGEN . . . .	" " 98
" PRETTY IS THE WORD FOR HER FACE " . .	" " 106
WAITING FOR THEIR TURN . . . . .	" " 128
" YOU NEVER CEASED TO FEEL . . . THAT IT WAS A WOMAN WHO WAS DOING THAT MELANCHOLY DANE " . . . . .	" " 134

## ILLUSTRATIONS

SPANISH PRISONERS OF WAR . . . . .	<i>Facing p.</i>	144
AFTER DINNER . . . . .	" "	150
" THEY STOOD SLOUCHED IN DIM AND SOLEMN PHALANX UNDER THE NIGHT SKY " . . .	" "	156
ROCKAWAY BEACH . . . . .	" "	162
" IT IS NOT PICTURESQUE, OR POETIC, OR DRAMATIC; IT IS QUEER " . . . . .	" "	170
" "I HOPE I'M NOT DISTURBING YOU ANY " " .	" "	198
" THE EFFECT IS THAT THEY ARE THERE TO BE SEEN " . . . . .	" "	208
" WITH THE HORSES THEMSELVES I COULD FIND NO FAULT " . . . . .	" "	212
" THE MOWING-LANDS ALONE ARE RICH " . . .	" "	230
" THE GREAT SQUARE HOUSES . . . PAINTED WHITE " . . . . .	" "	234
AN ASPECT OF PORTSMOUTH FROM THE PIS- CATAQUA . . . . .	" "	238
" THE WEATHER-BEATEN MANSION OF SIR WILLIAM PEPPERRELL " . . . . .	" "	254
THE VILLAGE SMITHY, KITTEERY POINT. . .	" "	256
SIR WILLIAM PEPPERRELL . . . . .	" "	260
" THE HILLS . . . THAT CHANGE WITH THE STEAMER'S COURSE " . . . . .	" "	310
" IN THE SPRING . . . THE RIVER SCALES ITS BANKS " . . . . .	" "	314
" THE HOUSE - BOAT DWELLERS, WHOSE SLUGGISH CRAFT LAY MOORED AMONG THE WILLOWS " . . . . .	" "	318
TOWS OF COAL BARGES. . . . .	" "	320
" . . . STOPPING TO PUT OFF OR TAKE ON MERCHANDISE OR MEN " . . . . .	" "	322